(b) the steps Government propose to take to meet this shortage of foodgrains stock; and

(c) what concrete steps are proposed to be taken to maintain the public distribution system in the country with adequate supply of foodgrains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) As on 1-1-1988, the stock of foodgrains with the public agencies was 14.14 milion tonnes as against 23.63 million tonnes on 1-1-87. The procurement of foodgrains in 1987 was 15.7 million tonnes as against 19.7 million tonnes in 1986. Distribution of foodgrains under public distribution system in 1987 was 14.9 million tonnes aginst 13.2 million tonnes in 1986.

(b) and (c) There is regularly replenishment of stocks through procurement operations in the country, for which the procuring agencies have been advised to maximise procurement. The available stocks are being utilised judiciously to meet the reasonable requirements of public distribution system. Further, the Government is also keeping open the option to import foodgrains as and when considered necessary.

Targets for Building Houses for Weaker Sections in Major Cities

1859. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target of houses to be built for the weakers sections in Delhi, Bombay Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore during the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

(b) to what extent this target has been fulfilled during the first three years of the Seventh Plan;

(c) what is the shortfall, if any, in fulfilling this target; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Housing being a State subject; all social housing schemes are formulated and implemented by the States/UTs as per their requirements and plan priorities.

The targets in respect of EWS Housing Scheme are fixed State-wise/Ut-wise and not city-wise. The Union Govt. only monitors the housing schemes including the scheme of Housing for the Economically Weaker Sections which forms part of Point No. 14 of the 20-Point Programme-1986. For the Union Territory of Delhi no specific targets were fixed for the scheme during the Seventh Plan period. However, during the first 3 years of the Seventh Plan (upto 29-2-1988), 10184 units were constructed in Delhi under EWS and Janta Housing Schemes etc.

Decline in the Number of Certain Scheduled Tribes

1860. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is decline in the number of certain scheduled tribes due to biological factors in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a time bound programme has been announced recently by Government to take corrective steps to halt the dwindling tribal population in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when Government propose to check this decline and what steps are likely to be taken in the proposed time bound programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) There is no